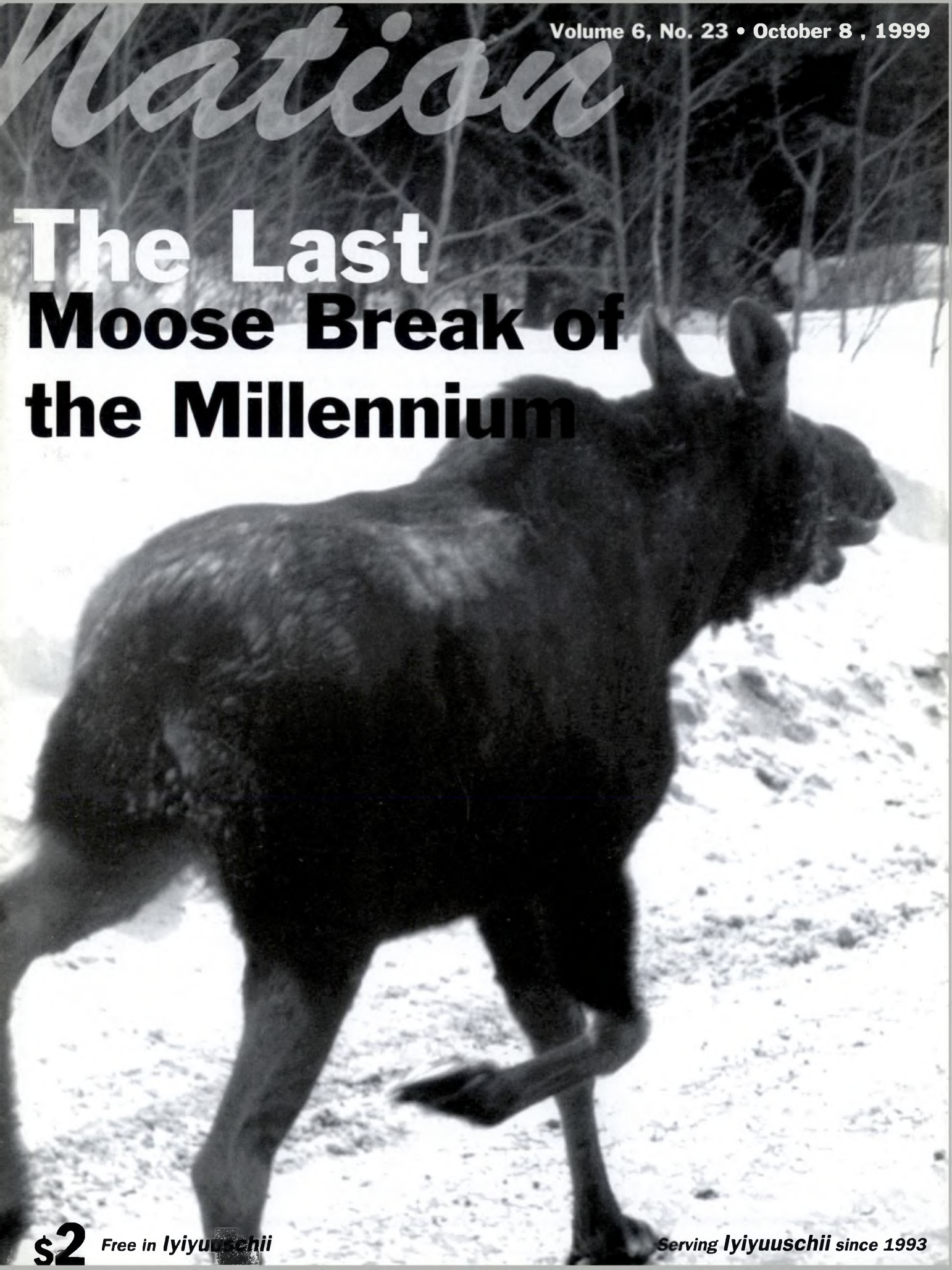
Nation

Volume 6, No. 23 • October 8 , 1999

The Last Moose Break of the Millennium



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Red Power

We may have heard about the Red Power Movement through our parents, better known as the American Indian Movement (AIM), originating in the Sixties. There were many reasons for starting these groups back then that still apply to our situation as Native youth today. I think the primary reasons being racism and hatred toward our kind in the media, education system and in government policies failing to recognize our constitutional rights as First Peoples. The complexity of this hate has compounded itself in the past 30 years making it hard for the untrained mind to detect just where it's coming from. Whether or not we hold degrees in social behavioural patterns, demographics, political science and other wordy psycho-analytical terms, Native youth feel the effects of racism on a daily basis. We get it from the likes of rude people, degrading comments, harassment, and physical violence. I mean, just being a human in this constrictive society is hard enough, but what with all the rest of it something must be done.

The movement of the Sixties was probably based somewhere along those lines just as they are today. The difference between then and now is that if we don't speak up about these occurrences and actually make changes in sociey's views of us as Native protectors of this land, the damage done to the environment may be irreversible. In talking about these issues in such an apocalyptic way I don't mean to frighten, or in any encourage people to "take over," rather just open up a safe and realistic floor to re-educate ourselves to the complexities of these racist occurrences. In creating this safe place it is important for us to come together and share our experiences with each other about the realities of being Native and to give support when it's needed.

Red Power may be misunderstood by non-Natives as being much like White Power, and we all know that that is a very different kind of empowerment with very different goals and objectives. Red Power is about sharing, educating ourselves and understanding the issues faced by Native people everyday. When we reach a consensus only then can we begin to effectively reverse the damage done. We as Native people have not experienced the togetherness of our old societies for many generations and we may not ever be able to get to that exact place, but at least we are trying in a semi-traditional way through respect, honour, understanding, empathy, listening, sharing, spiritually and trust. Using these powerful qualities we will redefine being Native and win back our self-worth, esteem and pride. The importance does not lay on whether or not people think we're drunks, useless Canadians, or other labels for oppression, but rather on whether or not we believe in our own purpose for being. The togetherness I'm writing about is being transcended through such groups as the Native Youth Movement whose purpose is just that - being together, being proud of who we are, and standing together when we need support. When we start to open our eyes, put aside our addictions, care for our children properly, respect ourselves mind, body, is the time we will make lasting changes, and that time is right now!

We will be able to teach Canadians about us when we know who we are. In turn they will fully understand who they are and teach us about themselves. Every one of us has been denied the truth of our origin, every one of us affected by it; we are all victims of racism and hatred. I ask the Great Spirit to send a message to non-Natives to stop believing the lies spread by mainstream media and the misinformed education system and start supporting their local Natives by respecting our existence, because the sooner we heal the sooner we can make the necessary changes that will free their own fears and misunderstandings about us and together we will create a fully functioning educated society. Until then keep an open mind, respect yourself and others, and with that we will restore peace, equality and redefine our purpose in this world.

You know straight across the board, hardly anyone really knows what is Indian. The word Indian in itself doesn't mean anything. That's how come nobody knows anything about Indians.

BY WALLACE BLACK ELK

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Moose on the run, Waswanipi area.

Cover Design: Sylvia Tennisco

rez notes
by Ndiamon

Hello. My name is Neil and I am an alcoholic.

I took my first drink when I was four years old. My young brain thought it was fruit juice but in truth it was this really sweet sherry that I haven't been able to find since then.

It was after dinner and I was playing with a nephew in their living room. Every once in a while I would walk up to the kitchen table and take a swig from a glass unnoticed. After about five or six sips someone noticed the quiet from the living room. They went to see what was up and there I was sleeping soundly on the couch. I don't remember a hangover the next day. Actually I don't remember anything from the next day. It's not even a blur. Oh to be young and drunk again.

I quit drinking after that and didn't take a drink again until I was about six. My first taste of Labatt 50 was at a party. I'd run up to my father, snatch the can out of his hands, take a swig, grimace and take off running. After a few tastes of 50 I discovered I didn't like the taste so I quit drinking again.

Years passed until my next drink. It was at a wedding reception in Matagami when I was 14. I didn't have the courage to go up the bar and order for myself so my brother went to fetch one for me. I felt so grown up sitting there by the pool table sipping, and still grimacing, after every shot, whiskey and seven up. I ran out of money after that first glass so I quit for several months.

Two years later a cousin borrowed a bottle of red wine from his father's closet and we took off running deep into the bush then surrounding Waskaganish. Some older boys caught up to us and suggested we hide the bottle and come back for a party later. We all agreed on a good hiding spot and we walked off. We immediately suspected foul play from them so me and my friends walked back as soon as we ditched them and polished off the entire bottle in about 15 minutes and left a "gift" for them, recorked the bottle and put it back. Sure enough, we saw them later and they confessed that they had gone back after we did, but the wine had, in their words, "gone bad" so they had to throw the whole bottle away.

Which reminds me of the time I was at a party with some older people. I found an empty vodka bottle sitting on a counter in the kitchen. I filled it up with water and took it to one of the guys sitting around the table. I whispered that I had found a full bottle and placed it quietly on the table in front of him thinking he would share it with the rest of the party. Instead he took the bottle of rain water and very sneakily stuck it in his coat sleeve and made like he was getting up to leave. I wish I could say he took off with the bottle but I stupidly told him it was just water. He gave me a dirty look and I laughed at him. He got saved not long after and he quit drinking. Thanks to me I like to think.

So then, the moral, if any, of these vile tales you young whippersnappers you, is don't drink. Even if it can be quite fun sometimes. And if you and your peers insist on pouring it down your throat, ask them to do it, as Seagrams suggests, in moderation.

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Moose almost wiped out 10 years ago

Loss of habitat because of clear-cutting and increased access via forestry roads nearly wiped out the moose during the late 1980's and early 1990's in Iyiyuuschii, says the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee.

The moose population is still at low levels and needs more protection, according to a recent report from the committee.

This was reflected in the fact that Waswanipi and Mistissini reported a poor moose hunt this year, despite several years of restrictions on hunting. In Mistissini, no kills were reported. This left wildlife officials surprised, since Mistissini is surrounded by three wildlife reserves that are supposed to protect moose from the sports hunt.

Other communities did, however, report a good moose hunt.

The southern part of James Bay, known as Zone 17, has the second-lowest density of moose in Quebec. It is the area most affected by forestry operations and sport hunting.

The population of 1,008 moose in 1985 fell to 551 by 1991 in Zone 17. During this time, 196 moose were being killed each year on average. But only 131 were being born each year, said the report.

The lack of moose has affected subsistence hunting by Crees. The average kill in the 70's was 143 per year in Zone 17. This fell to 103 in the late 80's, and to 64 in 1994-96, according to the report.

This year the committee agreed to a five-year plan with special measures to increase the moose populations. Previous year's plans were made on a year-to-year basis.

The committee is cautiously optimistic that things are looking up due to restrictions on moose hunting. A target of growing the moose population to 800 in Zone 17 has nearly been achieved. The new target for the year 2003 is 1,200 moose. Targets in Zone 22 are also on track.

The committee is recommending that Crees voluntarily not kill females but go after the males and fauns only. Zone 17 will see sports hunting of males only with a maximum of 40 kills allowed for the territory.

Simon Pash, the Cree representative on the joint Cree-Quebec committee, said the plan is good, but the Crees would like to see further measures, like more control over sports hunters. Pash said the lack of game wardens is a problem, and a lot of Crees are qualified. One Cree proposal is provincial recognition of the talleymen as management experts who would set quotas for their traplines. "This worked for thousands of years," said Pash. Talleymen should be seen as auxiliary game wardens, suggested Pash.

Pash also said the Cree side felt the restrictions applying to zone 17 should also apply to Zone 22.

The Quebec Environment and Wildlife Ministry says Crees are mainly responsible for Zone 22 as 90 percent of the kills are by the Cree. But there are indications that the moose in Zone 22 are overharvested too, The plan calls for alternating years where the females are exempted in Zone 22. This year the hunt allows male and females to be killed.

Zone 22 has an estimated moose population of 4,680, the lowest density in Quebec.

by William Nicholls

Greyest Owl

It is perhaps fitting that the real, fake Grey Owl was referred to as "the New Hiawatha." After all, Hiawatha was written by Longfellow, another non-Native.

Grey Owl was an Englishman who posed as an Indian and gained fame as a writer and a visionary of environmental protection. He claimed to be a half-breed adopted by the Ojibway. His story can soon be caught on the big screen for all to see.

It is more or less a $45-million documentary that is more or less true. It doesn't tell that Archibald Stansfeld Belaney, a.k.a. Grey Owl, was a drunk and bigamist having married at least three women, divorcing none and fathering four children in the process.

Instead, it paints a pretty picture of a man who lived among the Indians, said he was one and wrote a series of articles and books culminating in a speaking tour. He was called the greatest Indian spokesman of his time. Therein lies the shame. He merely told what he had been taught by the Native peoples, started an awareness of environmental protection and preservation - only to have it discounted when it was found he was a pretender. In fact this man may have set the environmental movement back decades.

This film is in the same genre as many we have seen over the years. Steven Segal in a fringe jacket playing the rescuer of Native people in Alaska. Then there was Dances With Wolves, another non-Native out desperately trying to save the Native people, just to name a couple.

I feel like an endangered species in that as a Native I have so many rescuers, at least in the movies. Great role models for benighted Indians to emulate or aspire to, it seems. Of course I could be wrong and this is just some horrible turn of events. Where once the myth of the "Noble Red Savage" prevailed, Hollywood is creating the myth of the "Noble Whiteman" so to speak.

Actually though if there is one actor who deserves to be a role model for Native people I think I would pick Marlon Brando. He sent an Aboriginal woman to refuse his Oscar for his role in the Godfather. The reason being he felt there were too many injustices carried out

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Dr. God

Letter to *The Nation*:

As I was reading through *The Nation* (vol. 6, no. 21, Sept. 10, 1999) - the back-to-school article, page 13, about the 14 reasons why God never received a PhD - he never needed one. Why? Because he's a P.H.G., not a PhD. Thank u 4 for your cooperation. Oh! P.H.G. stands for Powerful Holy God.

Waswanipi Fire Department

Best wishes to chief

Letter to The Nation:

We, the former colleagues of Mr. Reggie Mark, local administrators and program assistants for the Cree Hunters and Trappers Income Security Board, would like to extend our congratulations on his successful campaign running as Chief of Wemindji.

Mr. Mark had been an employee of our board ever since the program was established in 1976. Our thanks and gratitude go out to him for all his services and dedication as the local administrator in Wemindji. He was an invaluable member to our organization, especially in the areas of his expertise. We wish him well in his present endeavour as Chief and would like to extend our best wishes to his son Rodney as the Deputy Chief.

Although we will all miss him at work it was indeed a pleasure and privilege working with him all these years. People in Wemindji are very fortunate to have an individual such as Reggie as Chief, who we believe is very dedicated in whatever he sets out to do.

We wish the Mark family the very best of health and we pray to the good Lord that all will be well as you and your son take over the new administration in Wemindji.

From all your former colleagues at ISP.

Peter Shecapio, program assistant, Jacob Gull, Allen Neacappo, Lizzie Diamond, Lindy Moar, George M. Shecapio, Fred Tomatuk, Sally Herodier, Elizabeth Masty and Winnie Bosum, local administrators

Kissinger no murderer

Letter to *The Nation*:

Your "Rez Notes" for September 24 attributed the so-called Domino Theory to Henry Kissinger, who you said invented the term with reference to communism in Asia, during the Vietnam War. Wrong. Encyclopaedia Brittanica states it was U.S. President Harry Truman who coined the phrase after World War Two, referring to the spread of commuism in Greece and Turkey. You also referred to Kissinger as a warmonger and mass murdered. A warmonger, perhaps, but a mass murderer is, by definition, someone who himself carried out murders many times. Kissinger's advocacy of a continuing conflict in Southeast Asia caused tens of thousands of deaths, but that's not what the term "mass murderer" means.

You may enhance your credibility on all kinds of issues by exercising some control over your historical hyperbole.

Emanuel Lowi, Montreal

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against First Nations. Quite the shocker at the time but nicely done. I notice Kevin Koster didn't do the same. It leaves me wondering if he was just trying to cash in on this new fad of Hollywood. As for myself, instead of an equal partnership, I feel like one of them old-time movie Indians with my right hand in the air looking at the settlers greeting them with a guttural "How?"

-BY WILLIAM NICHOLLS

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H-Q'S FIRST NATIVE JOINT VENTURE STUMBLES

Hydro-Quebec's first joint-venture hydro project with a First Nation is mired in controversy.

Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, a community of 3,500, says its traditional lands will be affected by the $600-million project. But Hydro-Quebec left it out of negotiations on a hydro deal with neighbouring Betsiamites.

On August 18, Betsiamites residents voted 80 percent in favour of the Toulnustouc hydro joint venture. There was 50 to 55 percent turnout. An agreement with Hydro was signed two weeks later.

The project would divert three rivers into the existing Bersimis I and II reservoirs, built in the 1950s. Also planned is a new power plant on the Toulnustouc River, where an existing reservoir will be increased in size. The Innu will be minority shareholders in the project, and will take a cut of the profits.

Rosario Pinette, chief of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, said his community members still carry out traditional pursuits in areas overlapping with Betsiamites lands. "It affects our community in a big way," he said.

But Hydro has refused the community's requests for details about the project. It had to file an access-to-information request, and even then got "morsels of information," said Pinette.

Pinette said trappers are worried and calling up the band to insist their rights be protected. Betsiamites isn't going to court just yet, and Pinette hopes things can be worked out with Betsiamites. The deal with Hydro forces Betsiamites to defend the project. Betsiamites Chief René Simon didn't return our call.

by Alex Roslin

But Simon was quoted saying in the Innu newspaper *Innuvelle*, based in Mani-Utenam: "The Innu of Uashat mak Mani-Utenam are not affected by this agreement."

Robert Mainville, a lawyer for the Betsiamites band, said Elders from the two communities are trying to settle the dispute amicably. He said two other Innu communities also claim to have overlapping lands. But Mainville added: "Betsiamites says there is no land dispute at all."

The dispute is being cited as an example of what can happen when First Nations don't stand united.

Of all the Innu communities of Quebec, Betsiamites was the most affected by hydro development. Starting in the 1950s with the massive Manic-Outardes reservoir, its three main rivers were dammed up to electrify Quebec and power the Quiet Revolution.

The Innu never received compensation, nor were they asked for consent. That went even for the latest projects built in the 1980s.

Betsiamites tried to negotiate for compensation for many years, working through the Conseil Atikamekw-Montagnais, an association of 15 First Nations. But in 1994, Mani-Utenam broke ranks and signed its own deal with H-Q, causing CAM to break up.

According to Mainville, the attitude became: "If that's the way the ball bounces, it's each community for itself." Betsiamites, in particular, felt "crisscrossed by the other bands when it suited them. Almost every Innu band has been doing their deals with Hydro for years now," he said.

Betsiamites finally filed a $500-million lawsuit in Feb. 1998.

Accident claims life

A terrible accident outside Waswanipi took the life of a 15-year-old girl early the morning of Friday, September 24. Seven friends from the community were hanging out at the bridge on Highway 113 at around 2:30 a.m. when a truck came out of nowhere. One of the girls was hit.

"She tried to avoid the truck, but the driver wasn't sure which way the girl was going to go," said Tommy Grant of the Waswanipi police. "The driver did his best to avoid her." The deceased was mourned by the community at a service Saturday night. The funeral was held Monday in Matagami, where the family lives. Deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends.

Radio station soldiers on

Cree radio is back on the air in Whapmagoostui. Or at least it was until the Goose Break. The community radio station had to shut its doors on July 1 after it ran out of money. It had to stop holding fundraising bingos before Christmas because of a threatening letter from the Sûreté du Québec. The letter politely reminded the station that it may need a license from the Quebec government for the bingos.

Bingos fund all sorts of community programs, like radio, throughout Cree land, and in most First Nations in Quebec. Virtually none have licenses.

The Whapmagoostui band has been working full time to come up with a way to fund the radio. The band is considering passing a bylaw by itself to temporarily authorize bingo fundraising. Getting a license from Quebec would take two years, said one official. "We can't wait two years."

Penniless, the radio has managed to remain on the air without any money since early August, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Remains found at housing site

A construction crew in Mistissini has unearthed remains of three people in an old burial site that may date back to the early 1800s.

The skeletons were discovered Thurs.,

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Special Millennium Collector's Edition of *The Nation*

To mark the turn of both the century and the millennium, a Special Collector's Edition of *The Nation* will be published in December. This edition will highlight the people, events and developments that have shaped our communities.

We'll also look at changes yet to come, and who will lead us towards them, for better or maybe, for worse. Including archival stories and photos from past issues of *The Nation*, this special edition will be one you won't want to miss!

BE A PART OF THIS HISTORICAL EVENT – we are asking our readers and advertisers to send us what they think were the top news stories, developments or people of *the past 100 or 1000 years*. We are asking everyone who has read at least one issue of *The Nation* since we've started in 1993 to submit ideas, stories, photos or illustrations. Use the space below, or if you need more space, attach a sheet and send.

Here's your chance to make History!

The person who has influenced our history: _____

why? _____

The event that has changed our history: _____

why? _____

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why? _____

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Note: If you are sending any material (photos, illustrations, etc.)
and would like it returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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Sept. 23 near the lake. Two homes are being built at the spot under a private home ownership program.

Chief Kenny Loon, who had been out in the bush, ordered a halt to the construction Wednesday morning. "Obviously it's a big concern. We had several calls from Elders asking us to do something about the situation. It's a very delicate matter."

One resident who called *The Nation* said, "If they're going to go ahead with the housing project, it would be totally disrespecting the site." A public meeting was called with the Elders' council. They decided to continue construction and move the bones to a new site. Up to seven other people may be buried there.

Fight puts three in hospital

Three Chibougamau residents were put in the hospital after a fight with some Crees outside the Super Club Le Végas bar after closing time a month ago.

One man spent a day in a coma with a broken jaw. Another had his nose broken.

The SQ in Chibougamau hadn't heard of the incident. A police officer in Ouje-Bougoumou said the three hospitalized men didn't file a complaint with the police. He didn't know if the fight involved residents of his community: "We don't have any evidence on that." Another source said the fight started after the three men had made derogatory comments about Crees.

Presnail in court

William Presnail, former Anglican minister of Waswanipi, was in court in Chibougamau Sept. 2 related to several charges, including one of sexually assaulting a minor in Chapais. He has pled not guilty.

Presnail was arrested in Chapais last April 28 in connection with an alleged March 6 incident. The Sept. 2 hearing was held to fix a date for his preliminary inquiry, where the Crown's evidence will be presented to a judge. The inquiry will be November 11.

Last May, Presnail's lawyer said a prosecutor had told him "there were other people to meet who could be other victims." After further investigation, the Crown has decided not to file any more charges.

Arrest in Obedjiwan murder

A 15-year-old minor from Obedjiwan has been charged with second-degree murder in the September 19 death of Justin Dubé, 23.

Dubé, who lived in Obedjiwan, died after a brawl involving 15 to 20 people who had been partying in the school yard just before dawn. Police were called at 5:30 a.m., and found only one man and two women at the scene. The man couldn't walk well. Police started to take him home, but then he passed out and they saw blood on his chest, where he had been stabbed. He died two hours later in the health clinic.

A suspect was arrested Sept. 22, and taken to youth court in Shawinigan. He is being held in Drummondville.

Threat of mass suicide

A First Nation of 8,000 people in Colombia is considering "mass suicide" after the Colombian government okayed oil exploration in the nation's ancestral land.

Occidental Petroleum Corp., a U.S. petroleum giant, got a license to do exploratory drilling for oil next to Indian lands just outside a 543,000-acre reserve inhabited by the U'wa Indian nation.

"We are looking at the information to see what action the community will take. Mass suicide is one option we are considering," said Evaristo Tegria, an U'wa spokesman in Cubara, the main town of the reservation.

"This spells cultural and environmental genocide."

The decision comes after a seven-year battle by the semi-nomadic U'wa to prevent drilling on their ancestral lands, where they fish and farm in a hilly forested area.

The area to be explored - 500,000 acres - is almost as big as the reserve. It is thought to harbor up to 2.5 billion barrels of crude oil, which would help ensure Colombia's energy needs well into the next millennium. Oil is Colombia's top export, bringing in $2.5 billion a year.

Tegria feared the oil exploration will bring Colombia's bloody guerrilla war to U'wa territory. Leftist rebels control 40 percent of the country and have blown up oil facilities dozens of times. Colombia got $289 million from the U.S. in military aid in the past year.

U.S. slammed on trusts

America's only Native Senator slammed the U.S. government for dragging its feet and hindering efforts to correct mismanagement of $3 billion in Native funds.

The Interior Department is accused of gross mismanagement of the trust accounts for 338 First Nations and 300,000 individual Natives. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, clashed with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt at a hearing on the issue.

The government is being sued over the mismanagement. Babbit has been fined several hundred thousand dollars for contempt of court after not complying with court orders related to the lawsuit.

ACCEPTANCE

One beautiful morning July 10, 1950, a child of innocence was born, this child bringing happiness, laughter, joy, kindness, hope, faith, love and strength of the spirit within. The gentleness, innocence strong in spirit.

All around the little creatures awake to a new morning, singing their gentle songs knowing of the birth. The air so fresh, the scent of Mother Earth strong blending with the sun, the heavens, the river flowing with glitters of sparkle softly to the open sea of James Bay.

That special day, oh, how the Creator's light shone equally on every creation. Days of light glittering on the swift flow of the special river; "a great river" home of the great river people "Chisasibiiyiyuuch."

The sky above so blue, a breeze of wind touching this child, the air of freshness to breath. Room for all in a Teepee of soft boughs for flooring and bedding. This special child had touched the Earth; our mother, the Earth. The fire burning, its scent of smoke going straight up to the heavens.

This special child of creation; such was the "gift" given to a very special couple.

A man and woman recently joined together to be "of one" for they had made a commitment to the Creator to love and cherish, in sickness and health till death do them part. They knew their responsibility for they were taught well with love by wise teachers old.

The special parents knew the child born onto them was not really their own to keep forever but to raise wisely with hope, faith and love. For all that are born belong to the Creator and in time would be called upon and be taken back to the original spirit.

Long before this child was already part of creation this day, July 10, 1950, was chosen for him to be born into this lifetime.

What awaited this child ahead - times of happiness, times of joy, times of sadness and times of pain and hardships. These to become teachers.

Like the cycle of life, something out of this world awaited, jealousy, anger, gossip, resentment, denial, abuse of the mental, physical, emotional and the spiritual. All of these, the child would experience and walk through one day.

The child's growth went from one to another day; such is planned for all.

The land's importance nourishment provided by our mother, the Earth. Feasts were held in honour for this child by the chosen parents.

The feasting bringing joy, laughter, happiness, togetherness the youth and old alike. These celebrations of feasting giving thanks to the "Creator" in honouring him the most.

A day came of confusion to this child when he had grown to be six or seven. Walking from a home of comfort with his earthly parents to a strange looking building (residential school) was of shock, fear, afraid, trembling the young child cried. Crying, for he did not return with his parents, instead left behind to face a world of dominance.

Sent under a running water — strange feeling managing to follow what he thought was right, strange clothing, the smell of the air so different from the land's nature scent.

Next the hair off so short to the skull. The child so helpless, lost, confused, hurt, pain rambling within his spirit.

Somewhere before he had felt pain from an adult, the pain painful and damaging.

In this place of strange dwelling, foreign and managed by white people, this pain felt by the child would continue in the years to come.

The pain of the strap, the bruises on his body caused by an adult; a man of God. Sexual abuse came soon, so painful the shocking experience being robbed of his innocence, emotions and feelings damaged badly. The body scarred for life, the off-balance commenced, the spirit hurting.

Once so innocent the child became rebellious, angry, abusive, resentul towards God's creation. This angry child became an angry youth, an angry young man and an angry adult. Being in a world of turmoil, his behaviour to other people was abusive, women especially.

No respect to life, he continued his destructive ways in the years that followed. Alcohol and drugs became his personal compassion, they became best friends, they knew everything, they had answers to everything, never looking at themselves nor did they walk their talk.

"Healing is such a beautiful journey..."

This child, to man, you could not tell him anything; he knew it all. He gossiped, ridiculed, became resentful to other people, full of anger and hatred.

You know "Creator God" works in many a mysterious way.

In the workplace I began to see my own life. Everywhere I looked and turned the vicious cycle of family violence was clearly visible. There in front of me and in me sexual abuse, child incest, child neglect, child molestation, rape, family violence, domestic violence, cheating, gossip, people attacking one another, a lot of anger, violent thoughts, suicide attempts, suicide to mention a few.

I could not run no more from my own pain and the pain of others related in one form or another. Something needed and had to happen. "Change" had and needed to take place.

March 28, 1989, was when my own admission to "Onen To Kon Treatment Center" in Oka, Quebec, took form, which made it possible to change. The six-week program provided the basis for a starting point in redirecting my lifestyle and behaviour, dealing first with my alcohol abuse. At the same time personal issues in my own life were taking place - marriage breakdown, etc. I really needed help hitting rock bottom.

Going through the program provided the help needed, with beginning to see and really feel the inner child in me.

I realized during my stay in treatment that to really "change and

... JOURNEY OF HEALING

heal" it had to go beyond the alcohol abuse.

Change for me involves being able to face and deal with personal issues of one's life and working through them with "acceptance" not in denial. Coming out of treatment was something else for me. It was scary and with a lot of fear; knowing once you begun to look at your own life, to change, the healing journey must be continued.

Many a time, I kept telling myself, Abraham Bearskin, let's just drop it and forget it. The pain is too heavy, it's affecting our whole being too much.

A lot of times I felt I was going crazy and thinking prescribed medication would ease the pain or being institutionalized. The feeling of not belonging anywhere and being afraid with a lot of fear added to the fact in giving up and subconsciously thinking suicide. My whole being exhausted totally.

Sponsorship and counseling become the tools provided to support and help me go through some personal painful issues in my life.

In March 1993, I admitted myself at the Healing Centre Strong Earth Woman's Lodge in Manitoba, this time dealing with my sexual abuse. My stay at the healing centre was three months. It took that time to work on myself with the guidance of spiritual aspect of my being.

I came to realize what I needed most to heal and forgave me and love me and forgave others. Our people were given gifts by "Creator God" to help their own kind using Native ways for all matters related to the spirit.

Coming home from Manitoba in June 1993, I realized once again I could not really help others knowing there were other issues in my life I needed to work on and deal with.

I realized you cannot help someone in need if you as a service-giver do not face what is real and knowing reality.

For the next three years, I searched, sought in finding me, my own identity. To find oneself, one takes a risk. You get re-victimized again by your people and others. This again affected me deeply. The pain more painful, again, once you begin something you continue the best way you know how. A lot of prayers, crying, feeling the hurt and pain, anger, etc.

It is hope, faith and love which helps a person to change for the better our belief in Creator God.

The gift of understanding, "The Gift of Acceptance," comes when we begin to look at our own self before we can really give guidance, assistance, support and help to our brothers and sisters.

To walk the talk and practice, truth comes in sharing our very own story, our pain, our healing and being honest. One cannot run from oneself and expect things to go okay. We need to deal with reality with the gift of "Acceptance" as a helper.

Change is hard. With change we face none other than our own personal issues first, in letting go the past.

Yes, to accept sexual abuse, rape, anger, gossip, resentment, lying, family and domestic violence, child abuse, child neglect, child molestation and cultural denial, etc., happening in our communities is hard with a lot of fear, but to be healthy beings and create healthy communities as individuals, families, communities and as a Cree Nation we need to come to terms with reality of "Acceptance."

In healing these become good teachers only if we are honest and face what is real. No one deserves to be treated in a disrespectful manner. Remember we are "Creator God's" creation. All need to respect the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of another human being.

It is so amazing how the Creator works. I believe no one really, fully understands or knows his ways. If we did we would be perfect. "Change" is a gift and helper in its purest unique form.

One can be as perfect as he/she wants to be. We were perfect and innocent at the time of our birth, perfect of creation from the holy spirit.

This process, I really believe, brings the gifts of hope, faith and love within our spirit, mind and body which become whole in "Spirit." With the gift we begin to see, know and find our identity and know who we are as a person, people and as a Cree Nation.

Living in this lifetime we all encounter many of life's experiences, good and bad.

These life experiences can be overcome with changing our life-styles, our behaviour to other human beings.

"Inner child work" is one such tool to assist us and is a great healer once we take the road to healing. Inner child work I believe is one of the greatest helpers for me. It is the inner child which works in many mysterious way to health and heal us, the mental, physical, emotional and our spiritual being. We are all born by the holy Spirit of the Creator God. The inner child or spirit in us, to put in another form, helps to overcome the hardships and negatives in us and enables us to face our greatest enemy, in my case, "Myself."

It is life experiences which make us rich in spirit. Nowadays I get invitations to conferences (on various themes). There I am able to share my story, my life, the healing taking place in me each time. I still need a lot of help in living the good life, support coming from my parents, relatives, friends, children, you, Elders and others.

Be strong, build your faith, give hope to yourself, but forever trust "Creator God." Prayer from within is strong and does heal.

No matter what you do to help and heal yourself, others or someone will always look for your weakest link, your faults. Remember, you know you - always show love and still acknowledge other teachings; such is the way we were shown by the "Son of Man," the one we know as Jesus.

Healing goes two ways. People get to trust you - they will share their own story, their pain, their hurt. Through this process you establish trust, communication of the spirit of one, a very good feeling of self-worth.

Healing is such a beautiful journey to walk - you get to know more about yourself.

Meegwetch, Creator God.

Dedicated to my parents, Mary Head Bearskin and Daniel Bearskin, both 80 years old. They were married in July 15, 1937, and now have lived together 62 years. They never gave up hope, their faith strong, most of all, their love for us children, the greatest. Their prayers have been answered. I love you, my mother Mary Head Bearskin - I love you, my father Daniel Bearskin. Thank you so so much.

Your Son Abraham Bearskin

More on page 12

ELECTIONS '99...
The Last of the Twentieth (20th) Century!
CONGRATULATIONS

The People and Council of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi Eeyou Astchee are extremely pleased to extend its sincere Congratulations to the Newly-elected Chief and Leader of the following Cree communities:

Eastmain - Chief Edward Gilpin, Jr.
Waskaganish - Chief Robert Weistche
Waswanipi - Chief Paul Gull
Wemindji - Chief Reggie Mark

Your People have unanimously spoken! You have been chosen to lead your People into the 21st Century through your awesome Dream, Vision and Mandate.

As a New Leader of the Cree Human Race of Eeyou Astchee, we are very confident that you will carry the Torch with the greatest care, honour and respect for the love of your Elders, People, Children and Future Generations!

May our Great Creator bless you and your Family.

The People and Council of the Cree Nation of Waswanipi, Eeyou Astchee

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From page 11

True Identity

What treasure would I seek and find and keep that can compare with my identity?

To relinquish identification with the ego and the body is to awaken to our true identity. This true identity has remained as it always was — Pure Spirit — forever changeless, peaceful and at one with God, awaiting only our recognition.

Let me not forget
Myself is nothing
but myself is all

I was created as the thing I seek.
I am the goal the world is searching for.

Let me remember I am one with God.
At one with all my brothers, sisters and myself.

In You is All of Heaven

Your reality is only spirit
Therefore you are in a state of grace forever.

Your mind can be possessed by Illusions
But spirit is eternally free.

Peace is the state where love abides,
and seeks to share itself.

Taken from "Accept this gift"

Pa Ma Sei Win "My Life"

A Profile of Thelma Cheechoo

By Abby Cote

Our song bird from the James Bay region of Canada, Thelma Cheechoo, knows first-hand what it's like to grow up in a large musical family. "I'm the second youngest of nine children. I was singing by the age 5 and performed onstage for the first time at 18."

Thelma is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation, but grew up in the bush. She also has a political side; she ran for chief in the recent elections, but lost to four-time chief Ernest Beck.

"I feel very fortunate in the way that my parents raised us. We spent seven months a year of when I was young living out in the bush, but we also spend a lot of time on the road touring our Cree communities as a family performing," he said.

"My dad is an accomplished musician and early on he was very supportive and wanted all of us to sing. He and my mother encouraged us to learn to play an instrument. My dad is strict and my mom is easy-going. They really pushed us to get an education but we also worked in the family business over the years, which helped me to develop a good business sense."

Thelma believes her family's commitment to their music and to their traditional beliefs is what has kept the family strong. "We bonded through our music, which kept us together. Even now when we are spread out over the country, we keep in touch and support each other in our various careers."

Music has been the major part of Thelma's journey in life. "Music and the teachings from my parents were the foundation of our family and I have carried those teachings and values on into my life with my husband and my children," she said.

Spirituality was also very important to Thelma when she was growing up and she says it has helped to make her the stronger, independent, self-assured woman that she is. "We all have our own special gifts. We are all creative in our own way as we all come from the Creator."

Thelma's first CD, titled Pa Ma Sei Win, which means "my life" in Cree, was produced independently and took her a year to finish. "The songs on Pa Ma Sei Win relate to different stages and phases in my life." All but three of the songs on the CD are her own originals. "I would have liked for all the material to have been original but people, my family in particular wanted me, to record and include these three songs on the CD. So I did it as a tribute to my family, especially my parents."

Although Thelma grew up involved in performing onstage, she feels that becoming a good performer is a skill that is learned. "I am still learning to perform, which for me is an ongoing learning experience. I like to watch a lot of other artists shows to learn how it's done. I love going to other venues and festivals and listening to others perform. I'm a fan too. I like to give my support to up and coming performers," she said.

Thelma especially enjoys and - actually prefers - performing at small venues because of the interaction that develops with the audience. "I find that audience reaction provides me with encouragement," she said. Thelma used to be very shy about performing her music, but with the release of her CD and a lot of self-promotion she has developed a maturity and depth in her performances.

"I'm growing with my music. I still get nervous before a show but I'm not shy anymore. I love performing. I feel I have been fortunate to meet a lot of the right people by doing it all of on my own. I have been developing my own style, and with time I feel I will develop a more full sound."

One of the things Thelma has found hard about becoming a well-known recording artist is getting used to signing autographs. "I had to learn to deal with young people coming up to me after shows and disclosing personal, private things. My responses have been to encourage them to share these things with someone they trust and not to hold it in. I am often surprised by the number of people who want my autograph after a show. It's another way the Creator keeps me humble."

Thelma set up her own business called Rena Music in order to develop her own recording label so that she could produce her CD independently. "I did it this way so I could learn from the first step all the way through to the finished product. I learned a lot, and I know what I want and don't want for my next recording. For example, next time I'll work with a producer. I also found it tough at times to balance my music with the business side of things. It's very difficult to produce your own music entirely on your own. I made

Con't on page 14

cont'd from page 13

mistakes that will enable me to make a better product next time."

Since the release of Pa Ma Sei Win, Thelma has been learning to promote herself, which she has done tirelessly. She also acts as her own booking agent, manager and fundraiser. "All the money goes back into the business side of things to pay for future production projects. So far the money from sales has gone towards enabling me to tour and to getting back in the studio to work on my next recording."

Although music has been a very large part of Thelma's life for as long she can remember it is not her only passion. "I work a lot with communities to promote Native and non-Native talent. I also do workshops with youth. I believe that giving back to the community is what it's all about."

Thelma has some impressive credits to her name including hosting and doing workshops at the Northern Lights Festival in Sudbury and opening for Blue Rodeo at the 1996 Heritage Festival in North Bay. She has performed in Canada and the United States at Native and non-Native venues. But her favourite place to perform is back home in the James Bay area. "When I perform at home, I am giving back to my home community who have given me so much support an encouragement. It's a way from me to thank them. My husband is also very supportive and always tells me not to give up, although sometimes it's been hard to balance my family and my music. Which is why my family has often accompanied me on my tours."

Thelma is always busy; she's an energetic, passionate woman who seems to be constantly on the go. "I love doing with I'm doing. I'm really proud of being a Native performer. Wherever this road takes me, that's where I'm going. I'm on a good path and music will always be there. Music has kept us strong as a family and I encourage our young people to pursue their dreams and goals, but more importantly, to get an education. Whatever you want to do, pursue it with all you've got. Give it your all."

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Helping Each Other

I am realizing more on more than one of the main ingredients for success in life is having work that is meaningful and rewarding. Lucky for me I have had a lot of help in learning how to write, how to interview people and even put together a newspaper. I love this kind of work and I am very grateful that I have had direct training ever since I decided to leave my community and pursue a career as a writer.

Xavier Kataquapit

Recently, I attended a grand opening for Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin Employment & Training in Timmins. The organization hosted a day of information and an open house concerning their new offices and resource center. Many dignitaries were on hand for this celebration and made me feel really good to be part of such a positive First Nation event. I was moved by the words of Deputy Grand Chief Stan Louttit of Nishnawbe-Aski Nation as he talked above being proud of Mamo as a First Nation agency dedicated to creating career opportunities for First Nation people. Stan has always been well known for his commitment to his people and it was refreshing to hear his positive message to everyone concerning the need for employment and training programs.

Surprisingly, I didn't feel intimidated in the company of VIP's like Stan, Rose Anna Campbell, Mamo Executive Director Colin chief Elenore Hendrix, Matachewan First Nation; Gary Naveau, Mamo board member, Reg Blair, MP for Cochran-Superior; Mayor Vic power, City of Timmins and Gilles Bisson, MPP, Timmins-James Bay. I really got the feeling through their words and the way they acted that all of these people felt proud to be a part of the new era for First Nation people.

I was also struck by the congratulatory note by Andrew Reuben, Executive Director, Chiefs of Ontario, in which he pointed out that First Nation agencies like Mamo contribute much from an economical and cultural point of view to the cities and regions in which they are located. It had never really occurred to me before that all of our First Nation organizations located in cities right across Canada are contributing much to the economy and the social aspects of these communities. Organizations like Mamo with an office in Timmins and one in Thunder Bay pay rent, pay for services, use local transportation systems, use the services of local businesses and provide training and employment programs that benefit First Nation people and in turn the local employers. Mayor Vic Power is keenly aware of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that First Nation people spend in his community and he is supportive of First Nation initiatives.

It was good to hear the commitment for organizations says as such as Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin from a political VIP like Reg Blair, MP. He reiterated the government of Canada's commitment to First Nations people and to agencies like Mamo saying, "I am a firm believer in the fact that every person in this country has the right to work and live in dignity." Gilles Bisson, MPP added his support for Mamo and noted that the work of the organization has benefited many.

Another thing that made me feel good about this event was that the media was out in full force to provide coverage. For too long I have read sad, tragic and derogatory reports about First Nation people in the media and I am very happy to say that in general the media is now very willing to report on all of the positive things happening with First Nation people. Mamo-Wichi-Hetiwin means helping each other together in Oji-Cree and I got a first hand look at the words in action at this event.

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ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Best Community Contribution (Man)

Best Community Contribution (Woman)

Most Outstanding Elder

Most Outstanding Youth

Most Outstanding Tallyman

Best Goose Plucker

Best Hunter

Best Fisher

Best Storyteller

Best Square Dancer

Best Looking Community

Cree Closest to Sainthood

Sexiest Cree

Best Dressed Cree

Best Cree Media (person or organization)

Best Cultural Contribution

Best Artist

Best Cree Musician

Best Coach

Best Cook

Best School

Best Teacher

Best Athlete

Best Band Council

Best Politician

Best Checkers/Chess Player

Best Pool Player

Nicest Smile

Funniest Cree

Best Nickname

Coolest Vehicle

Worst _____ (make your own category)

Best Pickup Line

Best Expression (Slang)

Really, really amazing prizes to be announced!!!

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CONSUMER AWARDS

Best Overall Business
❒ Air Creebec ❒ Cree Co.
❒ Kepa Transport
❒ Cree Construction
Other:_____

Best Town for Shopping
❒ Chibougamau ❒ Timmins
❒ Val d'Or ❒ Montreal
❒ Rouyn-Noranda ❒ Ottawa
Other:_____

Best Music Shop
❒ HMV ❒ Musicon
❒ Polyson ❒ Mag Music
❒ Sam The Record Man
❒ Christian Book Shop
Other:_____

Coolest Clothing Store
❒ Le Chateau ❒ Bo Jeans
❒ Rio sud Val d'Or
❒ Stitches
❒ Géant des Aubaines
Other:_____

Best Hunting Supplies
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
❒ Ferplus ❒ Le Baron
❒ Mario Monger
Other:_____

Best Fishing Supplies
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
❒ Ferplus ❒ Western
❒ Baron ❒ Siibii Supplies
Other:_____

Best Sports Supplies
❒ Podium ❒ Sports Express
❒ Sport Expert (Rouyn)
Other:_____

Best Restaurant
❒ Del's Restaurant
❒ Brien's ❒ Jacob's
❒ Bar-B-Barn ❒ Quick Stop
❒ Kanio-Kashee Lodge
Other:_____

Best Hamburger
❒ McDonald's Big Mac
❒ Jacob's ❒ Brien's
❒ La Paryse
Other:_____

Best Pizza
❒ Mike's ❒ Pizza Hut
❒ Chisasibi Mitchuap Resto
❒ Chip Stand (Wask.)
❒ Angela's (Mtl)
Other:_____

Best Bar/Club
❒ Winny's ❒ Chateau Louis
❒ Boréal ❒ Chateau Inn
Other:_____

Rowdiest Bar
❒ Chateau Louis
❒ Christal's ❒ Bar Central
Other:_____

Best Hotel
❒ Sheraton Centre
❒ Journey's End ❒ Eskers
❒ Confortel ❒ L'Escale
❒ Kanio-Kashee Lodge
Other:_____

Best Snowmobile Dealer
❒ Mario Monger
❒ Beric Sport ❒ Indoho
❒ Ou J'ai des Sports
Other:_____

Best Auto Dealer
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❒ Gareau ❒ Barraute
❒ Veillette & Johnson
Other:_____

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❒ Air Wemindji ❒ Air Taiga
Other:_____

Best Grocery Store
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❒ Chisasibi Co-op
Other:_____

Best Toy Store
❒ Toys 'R' Us ❒ Dollarama
Other:_____

Best Children's Clothes
❒ Petit Luptin
❒ Géant des Aubaines
❒ The Gap for Kids
❒ Au coin des petits
Other:_____

Best Bridal Shop
❒ Jaymore's
❒ St. Hubert Street Plazza
Other:_____

Best Flower Shop
❒ Hélène Fleuriste
❒ Diane Fleuriste
❒ Mother Nature
Other:_____

Best Jewelry Store
❒ Bijouterie Riche Or
❒ Bijouterie Baribeau
❒ Bijouterie Val d'Or
Other:_____

Best Furniture
❒ Meubles Marchand
❒ Meubles Sélections
❒ Ikea
Other:_____

Best Gift Shop
❒ Wachiya
❒ Hallmark
❒ Mitchou
❒ Wal-Mart
Other:_____

Best Movie

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Best Rock Band/Musician

_____

Best Book

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Chief Sam R. Bosum
Ouje-Bougoumou

Chief Reggie Mark
Wemindji

Chief Violet Panchano
Chisasibi

Chief Paul Gull
Waswanipi

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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Astchee)
Grand Conseil des Cris (Eeyou Astchee)

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Cree Regional Authority
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18th Annual Montreal Powwow

Photos by Glen Srigley

A Moose of a Story

By Lindsay Cote

A few years back I had arranged to hunt moose up above the area I was trapping. I had decided to hunt with a good friend of mine who is now in the spirit world. His name was Rob and I dedicate this story to him.

We had known each other for some time but this was the first time I had been able to talk him into going hunting with me. He was a bushman from way back and had me in stitches many times with some of his outdoor tales.

I scouted out an area a week before the hunt and was very optimistic about the trip. I had found moose droppings and fresh tracks everywhere. The track was so fresh there was a young bull standing in one set. If that ain't fresh then I don't know what is. I had a .308 strapped to my back but I didn't want to ruin the hunt I was planning. So I told "Mr. Big" I would be back in a couple of days for his steaks. He just gave me is snort and went on his way. I don't usually start a conversation with a bullmoose in the rut because they can be so unpredictable.

Rob and I arrived at camp a day before the hunt. We used the trap cabin for home base, which is a toasty place to be after a day of hunting. The cabin was fully equipped with hot water tanks, full-size propane stove, two beds and, most importantly, a 12-cup teapot.

The weather for the hunt was in our favour. It was sunny but cold with hardly any wind. Just a beautiful fall day and a good area to hunt - who could ask for more? The only thing better would be if a moose just happened to decide to walk right into camp. But that would have been too easy. After all it's the work and the stalking and chasing that makes a steak taste that much better.

My trapping partner Derick was also along for the hunt and he was armed with a 300 Magnum. Needless to say, that big gun gave him quite the black eye during target practice that was still smarting the morning of the hunt. And yes, I was teasing him about using that big cannon on our hunt.

Derick left first from camp. We were only 10 minutes behind him. Wouldn't you know it, Derick had a young bull down by the time that we caught up to him. Well, we cleaned and quartered that moose and sent Derick on his way.

I had decided to try to back-track and drive around another road which would bring us about a mile or so on the other side of the timber cut. Rob was pretty excited. All he kept saying was, "Steak for dinner, steak for dinner." He sounded like a broken record.

Rob complimented me on how fast I had gutted and quartered Derick's moose and stated, "It's been long time since I've seen someone clean a moose and throw in the truck in 15 minutes."

We rounded a corner and came to the edge of the logging cut. We stopped there parking the truck and started to walk the rest of the way in. We stopped to roll our rubber boots down because they were knocking at the backs of our legs as we walked. This made us laugh because we sounded like a couple of old cow moose clip-clopping down the road.

We'd walked for about a quarter of a mile when suddenly, standing there next to the tree line about 200 yards away, were a bull and a cow moose. I almost didn't shoot them because the way the morning sun was shining on them made them look like a picture.

Rob snapped me out of the mood pretty quickly as he leaned over and said excitedly, "Shoot, shoot, shoot, shoot." He was in broken record mode again. I decided to take out the cow and before Rob could say "shoot" again, I had two bullets in her.

Well, that's when the fun began. The bull did the unexpected and started down the hill right for us. He was less than a hundred yards away when Rob started the broken record thing again, only this time he was yelling, "Shoot, shoot, shoot."

I slammed two rounds into the bull and it fell on its face about 60 feet from us. Rob looked back up the hill and said, "You missed." Sure enough, the moose was standing back up. How could I have missed? I popped the clip out of the .308 and shot two more rounds. This time I knew I'd hit it.

We had to sit down and have a smoke before we decided to get to work on cleaning the moose. We decided to cleaned the cow first. We walked up the hill and wouldn't you know it, lying there was the cow and a calf in its second year. I knew I hadn't missed but we never saw the calf lying in the high grass.

There we were, standing in the sun with three moose to clean. It took us all day to get the meat back to camp and we were covered with blood from head to toe. This part of the work was done. Now all that remained was three days or so of cutting, washing and wrapping the meat.

We fed not only our immediate families, but also our extended families and Elders for the winter. It was one hunt that will always stand out in my mind. Rob is in the Spirit World probably telling his version of this hunt and other experiences as an outdoorsman.

ART

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY NEIL DIAMOND

glenna matoush with two of her works in progress

***M**ontreal native artists set up shop at this city's friendship centre last weekend. curious locals and chance passersby dropped in and out throughout the two-day exhibition. the show was sponsored by the montreal native art centre. for info call: 514.735.7726*

portrait of dana williams with double portrait (self and sitting bull)
** note the resemblance*

inuk watercolourist annie michaels and her gentle brush work

dana shows an attentive glenna matoush how an artist sees

CLASSIFIEDS

100 BIRTHS

Belated congratulations to my brother Christopher Matches and his fiancée Freda Bobbish on the birth of their son, Jerry Dawson Matches who was born in Chisasibi on June 10, 1999 at 9:10 a.m., weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces. Take care of him also your other children. We miss all of you. From your sister Edith, Gordon and Evander Gunner. Mistissini.

Belated best wishes to my sister Rebecca and her husband Barry Bearskin Jr. on the arrival of their second daughter. Emily Ann Grace Bearskin was safely born in Chisasibi on June 19, 1999 10:44 p.m. Weighing eight pounds 12 ounces. Wow! A beautiful little sister for Juanita. Take care of your daughters and we miss all of you. From your sister Edith, Gordon and Evander Gunner. Mistissini

Congratulations to Tracy Bearskin and Peter Natachequan on the birth of their baby boy Theoren Albert Casey born on September 9 1999. We are very happy for both of you and to Anna May having a little brother to play with. From Pierrette, Norman and Sebastien

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy 4th birthday to my cousin Tristan Pepabano on Oct. 4. And to my Grandpa Rene Coon Come happy birthday on Sept. 25. Hope you both have fun on your special days. Love, Sebastian Coon Come. P.S. Grandpa love you with or my little heart .

Birthday wish is going out to my best friend, J.P.. He will be 28 on Aug. 26. Happy birthday and many more to come. Hope someday will be together because we share or feelings and problems and understand each other very well. I always care for you know matter what we face in this world. I will always love you. From guess (18)

We would like to say happy belated birthday to our sister Olivia Judy Gunner. She's celebrated her 11th birthday on Sept 19. Hope you have fun on your birthday. We love you so much. From Albert, Hazel, Billy Gunner.

Happy 1st birthday to Charlene Georgina Ethel Weapenicappo on Oct. 4. It seems we just brought you home from the hospital yesterday. You're growing up so fast. We wish we can keep time, at time still, so we can enjoy your first year or a little longer. You've filled our lives with joy, laughter and happiness. Happy birthday baby! Love, Mommy and Daddy "0". xoxoxoxox.

Happy birthday greetings to our little sister Charlene Georgina Ethel. Our little sister is finally one. Have a wonderful day. Love, your sisters and brothers. oxoxoxxo

Happy belated birthday to my little friend in Nemaska who celebrated her birthday on September 4. Richard Jolly happy belated birthday to you my friend. Hope you have a great time on your birthday. Hope to see you soon. I love you and miss you a lot. Happy belated birthday and many more years to come. Love always, Virginia Saganash. xxoxoxo

I'd like to wish my grandpa, Don Hester a happy belated birthday on September 17th. God bless you, I miss you both so much and I just want you to know I love you both so much. Hey! Grandma, come and visit me sometime. With love, your youngest grandson in Mistissini Lake, Que.. Shadrach Hester. P.S. Grandpa, I love you so much with all my little heart even though it's so little. xoxoxoxoxo

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to Donovan Lee Kris in Waskaganish on Sept. 22. He turned two years old. May you have a blast on your birthday. We miss you so much. With love, Leona and Shadrach. Mistissini. P.S. Donovan, don't need to much of your cake please! You're going to get fatter like me (Shadrach). Miss you so much. xoxoxoxo.

On Sept. 3 our special friend in Waskaganish is going to celebrate her 20th birthday. We would like to wish her a happy belated birthday and many more years to come. True friends are never forgotten. May your dreams come true. We almost forgot our friend Linda. She will celebrate her 19th birthday on Sept. 5. Happy birthday buddies. P.S. Claudia don't drink to much or else you won't remember half of your special might. Same to you Linda. Once again, happy birthday guys. Oops we mean girls. From your friends who really care love you. Bessie Gillies, Bella Jolly, Clara Hester, Catherina Hester, Jazmyne Jonah and to your sis Marion Whiskeychan. DLF. Don't party too much ya. It's going to be party ya in Waskaganish.

Birthday greetings going out to the following people will be celebrated or birthdays on the month of September. My sister Yvette on Sept. 12, a my cousin Richard Lebizay on September 19, in Montreal, and my other sister Valerie on Sept. 24. Last but not least my one can only brother Glen on Sept. 28. Almost forgot my uncle John House on Sept. 20. Enjoy your birthdays because they only come once a year. With love, Jennifer in Chisasibi.

On Sept. 3rd, 1989 a baby boy he came to this world. His name is Gabriel Iserhoff. I thank God for this little brother he gave me. I just want to wish him a happy belated birthday and I love you so much with all my heart. From your sister who knows you and cares about you so much. Once again happy belated birthday. Leona Gunner. Mistissini. xoxoxoxoxoxo

Birthday wishes to my old buddies. Tina Chiskamish in Chisasibi Oct. 6, Karen Hester in Waskaganish Oct. 15 and to Betty Coonishish in Chisasibi on Oct. 21. Happy birthday to all of you and take care! From your friend Edith Gunner. Mistissini

Happy belated birthday to our friend Gishie Sam she's celebrated her birthday on Sept. 10. Happy 16 birthday and many more to come. From your friends who like to party. P.S. we're sorry that your mother forgot about your cake.

Happy belated 1st birthday to Justin Willie Ryan on Sept. 11 and many more to come. We love you very much. From Savannah and Melina

A special little boy will be celebrating his second birthday on Sept. 23. This goes out to our nephew Gabriel Neacappo.

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Happy birthday and many more to come. We love you very much. Love always, Melina, Savannah, Paulina, Emma and your uncle Samson.

Shelley Matches (Nemaska Chick) celebrated her 5th birthday on Sept. 13. We love you and we miss you. We also want to say hello to Sammy, Tommy and Tanya. Take care all of you and happy birthday and many more to come to set Shelleysh. From Edith, Gordon and Evander.

Special birthday greetings to our daughter Taralyn Weistche who will be celebrating her fifth birthday on Sept. 25. We are glad to have a sweet, adorable, cute, a lovable daughter like you, a daughter like you is a very precious gift. We love you so much and you always hold the special place in our hearts because you are our only daughter. Once again happy birthday. With all our love, Mom and dad.

We would like to wish my mom a happy birthday on Oct 8th. Sorry we can't make it down to Malartic but will be there for Thanksgiving supper on Sunday. Thank you for taking care of us when we go down Mom. From Georgia and Lindy Mark Stewart. Remember that we love you Mom.

A belated birthday wish to my former college roommate Miss Lucy Trapper from Queens Street in Mistissini. My friend, you're getting old now and your looks are not going to stay the same, it's time you find a man. I know you have long list of what you for in a man I don't think you'll find one that perfect. Ha! Hoped to see you in the near future. Take care! Love in friendship, Lilybelle. PS congratulations on computing your office systems program Canadore College. I knew you could do it!

Happy birthday to a Winnie the Pooh fan who will be celebrating her fifth birthday on Sept. 25. I hope you have fun on your birthday. I love you with all my little heart. From your little bro, Rylan Cody.

Belated birthday wishes, Clayton, though these birthday wishes aren't arriving on-time they are still specially meant for you. Each one holds a little extra wish for dreams and hopes coming true. May your birthday be a perfect one and may the future bring with it all happiness that life can hold for you. Happy belated third birthday Clayton on Sept. 11. I love you so much and I miss you. Love always aunt Melanie Gunner. Nephew, you are among the precious gift's God has given me. I always thank God for you and your sister that I miss so much little Skylynn. I love you both so much. xxxoxoxoxo.

My special sister Lorraine Sarah Samantha Kanatewat will be celebrated her birthday on Aug. 18 (also Chisasibi's birthday). Lorie, it has been two years since your accident, every time your birthday arrives I go back to that day. Wondering if you would be able to walk again, when the doctor told us that you may have a spinal injury. Now, to this day I'm very thankful to see you get to celebrate your birthday on your own two feet. I just would like to say that I want you to think twice before taking that drink again. For the sake of our parents, sisters, brothers, nephews and nieces. Because we love you very much! I love to see you do things for Mom and dad. You are the only one who can take them everywhere and wherever they want to go. You know what am trying to say, and I know they depend on you a lot. So please try not to disappoint them. I'm also happy to say that I know that you don't drink as much as you used to. Keep in up! You'll be a much happier person if you don't have it in your system. I just want to tell you that I'm always available whenever he neither shoulder to lean on or cry on or every time you need a friend or a sister. Isn't that what sisters and friends are for? I love you with all my heart and on behalf of our parents Janie and Robert, brothers Raymond and John, baby sisters Judy and Claudine, nephews Peter Brian, Baby Matthew, Steve and Darius, nieces Marsha, Candace and baby Tatiana, our sister and Law Clara and your brother-in-law Rusty and also to mention Allen and Sharon they can say the same. Love, from your sister and friend Charlotte.

I would like to wish my dad, Morley S. Etapp a happy belated birthday on Sept 16. I want to thank you for all of your love and support you've given me all these years. I love you. Also, to my sister, Angela E. Hester on Sept 23. Love always, your daughter/sister, Melissa M. Etapp.

My sister Judy Janie Lynn Angela (Cree name?) Kanatewat will be turning ?? On Oct. 27. I want to take this time to wish her a very happy birthday. Judy, you're so lucky to have five names and including the Cree name I couldn't spell. I can remember the time you were born, you had so many names that people wanted to give you. So, we had a hard time trying to pick them. Imagine if Mom and dad had decided to keep all the names, you would have probably made a world record. Anyways, just thought I'd let everybody know how special you are. Take the time to enjoy your birthday. I don't mean by celebrating it with a drink. You won't be able to enjoy if you have alcohol in your system, because you won't remember. Just enjoy it being sober, okay. I guess you know what I'm trying to say. I also wanted to say that when ever you need us shoulder to lean on, I'm always here to listen.

CLASSIFIEDS

Love always your sister Charlotte.

I would like to wish my nephews a happy birthday. First and foremost my darling (cheeks) Nicholas Chakapash a happy first birthday on Sept. 27. Second to my very own (Austin Powers) Austin Snowboy on Oct. 16. Last but not least Albert Gilpin Jr. on Oct. 5. Blessed are the days that you guys were born. I'm very proud and honored to be your aunt. Love always, Joanne S.

Happy belated birthday to our daughter Olivia Judy Gunner. She's celebrated her 11th birthday on Sept 19. We just want her to know that we will always love her so much. Since the day you were born we thank God for having a daughter like you. Love always your parents, Emma and Andrew Gunner. Mistissini.

We want to wish our sister a happy belated birthday. Her name is Olivia Judy Gunner on Sept 19. We will always love you so much even though you always bug us. Love always, your brothers, Albert Ben and Billy Gunner.

Happy birthday going out to Emily W. Bosum on Sept. 29. Hope all your wishes and dreams come true!! They did already heh!? When you married Harry Joe? We love you guys and you are important to us. Love always, Andree-Ann and Weena in Ojay.

I want to wish my husband a happy birthday on Sept. 26. His name is Andrew K. Gunner. My love for you will always be there has long as I live and I also thank God for a loving husband he gave me. I also thank God for the wonderful years we have been together. With love, your wife Emma Gunner. Mistissini.

Raymond Kanatewat, my brother will be celebrating his 3?? Birthday on Oct. 7. I didn't want to mention your birthday in case you didn't want everyone to know, see our thoughtful I am. Raymond, I know there are times I never express my love to you, but you must already know by now that I love you very much. I know when we were kids we always used to fight each other, as any other siblings do that didn't mean I didn't love you. I guess we just got fed up with each other, because there was only the two of us for a long time, until seven years later you are born we had another baby brother. I also know that your twin brother Peter Matthew must be watching over, as you celebrate your birthdays. I always wonder what it would have been like to see you two celebrate it together. May you have many more birthdays for you to celebrate. Love, your sister Charlotte.

This special birthday message goes out to a wonderful grandmother, my gookum Jane Loon. My gookum is a special women, she is loving, caring and devoted to given the best she has to offer to her children and grandchildren. She is a woman who believes in honesty, family values and also a true believer in Christ Almighty. My Daddy and Mommy love her very much and like me, are greatful that we were blessed with having such a wonderful and beautiful person in our lives. We love you grandma and we wish you many more wonderful years. HAPPY ? BIRTHDAY!!! LOVE ISAIAH XOXO

One of my little buddies will be celebrated his 3rd birthday on Aug. 11. My little cousin Damien Augustus Moar from Waskaganish. I've heard you're going to have a birthday party when you got back from Hull. I wish I could be there to celebrate with you. But don't forget to send me a piece of your cake, okay. Anyways, happy birthday and many more birthdays to come. I assure you will celebrate our birthdays together someday, maybe yours or mine. We'll have a blast! Oh yeah, one of our other two little buddies already had his birthday, Todd on June third, 1999 who also turned three. Happy belated birthday Todd. It's just me and Jovan still waiting for our third birthdays. This will be all for now. Be seeing ya soon. Love, from your little cousin Darius Robert Miyobino Moar from Chisasibi.

102-WEDDINGS

We want to congratulate Johnny Gunner and Linda Blacksmith for the upcoming wedding on October the 16th, 1999. Congratulations. May you both have a wonderful day on your special day. Wishing you both the best in life. May God be with you on your wedding day and in the years. God bless you both. From Isabelle and Randolph

103-ANNIVERSARIES

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our parents Isaac and Sarah Jacob on Sept. 27. We wish you a happy anniversary and to tell you how much you always meant to have the love and how grateful and blessed we are to have such wonderful parents like you. We love you very much! Thanks for everything you have done for us! With love always your daughters Francine and Mary Jacob. Waskaganish.

Happy 20th anniversary to my grandparents Isaac and Sarah Jacob. It means so much to have grandparents like you. I love you both very much. From your granddaughter Anisha Jocia Bethney Jacob.

Happy 8th anniversary to my husband on Sept. 20. I love you with every beat of my heart. I promise you that no one will stand between us. I will love you and cherish you, honor you, keep you in sickness and in health till death do us part for as long as we both shall live. God bless you. With love always, your wife who loves you soooo much.

Happy 10th anniversary to Peggy and Samson Matches in Nemaska on Sept. 29. Also happy 3rd anniversary to Rebecca and Barry Bearskin in Chisasibi on Oct. 4. God bless you all and have a happy long life together. From Edith, Gordon and Evander.

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105-OBITUARIES

In loving memory. Aaron Tyrone Floyd Hester. Feb 19, 1998 - Aug 15, 1998. You are the greatest gift I received in life. Your laughs and thatr sweet smile of yours lifted my spirits in both joy and sorrow. You gave me comfort when the sorrow was too much to bear. Your present I felt when I was in a time of need when I had no one to reach out to. You gave me the meaning of true love. You are my sweet baby boy, my memories of you and the love you gave me will forever live in me. I am thankful that I was given a child to care for even if it was for a short period of time, and has been called away. He has found a heavenly home, he is my treasure in heaven. The joy of seeing my baby will be long in my heart. Thank you for giving me the gift of love. Forever in my heart you will live. I love you Son. Love always, Angela Etapp Hester. To my parents, family and friends, I am grateful for your

love and support. To my husband who was always the strong one. I love you so much.

300-PERSONALS

Are alcohol and drugs destroying your life? Do you want to help yourself? Maybe we can help. We are Alcoholics Anonymous. We meet in Mistissini on Saturday evenings, 8 p.m., in the basement of St. John's Anglican church.

This goes out to a buddy of mine, Jennifer Jackson. Where in the hell are you girl!! Last I heard from you was last year on the phone. I tried calling at your mom's place. You're not there when I call. Write to me okay. Grace Blacksmith P.O. Box 312, Senneterre Que. J0Y 2M0

This goes out to my best friend Shannon Bernard. I just wanted to let you know that your friendship means a lot to me. I tell you everything about me. My hopes, dreams, secrets and my feelings. I also wanted to thank you for being understanding, trustworthy, caring and thanks for being there for me to the good times and the bad times. Always remember that no matter how far apart we are, you'll always be my best friend. Well, I'd better stop writing before I get emotional (joke). P.S. take care of yourself! From your best friend, Tanya Blacksmith

In the Montreal area there is interest to learn Cree. For teachers of Cree please e-mail Aboriginal Women of Montreal at famawm@cam.org This is a non-profit organisation, and AWM greatly appreciates any help in funding or otherwise that is offered. Meegwetch.

Hello. :) I am a Cree individual with a cat and a room for rent in a large 5&1/2 for 250.00 / mo. negotiable, location Montreal. Non-smoking student or professional preferred. Please reply at 514.284.3097

I just want to say hello to do special boys in my life. Niko Capissisit from Senneterre, Darius-Joey Blacksmith from Waswanipi. Hey! Boys! How is it going? I hope you boys are good. Especially you Darius. You're starting to punch people and you're only eight months old. Niko, listened to mommy. I love you both so much. Darius, ask your daddy for some more money. Because you need a lot and I'm very sure you're going to use a lot of pampers! Anyways love you boys. From your aunties TB, PC. xoxox

I just want to thank Pamela Capissisit for being there with me in the delivery room. The there for me and Darius in everything that we do. Thank you so much sis. Thank you for keeping Darius when I'm shopping. Someday I'll pay you back. You've been so great to us. You're the world's best sister. You've helped me with Darius, you took his bath when I was too tired, you fed him when I was sick and you never nagged at me. You understood what I was going through. You are always happy doing things for Darius. I love you so much. I'm sure Darius loves you too. Love always, Grace B.

Hello to my friends and Mistissini. Rachel Brien, Queenie Neeposh, Julianna Neeposh, Judy and Louise Coon Come, Ginette Gunner. I miss you girls! I can't wait to see you all again! Friend, Jamie. Waskaganish.

Dennis, its Thanksgiving and I would like to take this time to let you know that am very thankful to have you and our beautiful son in my life. Love, Lilybelle.

To a special person in my life. Anderson Paul Jolly from Nemaska. Every day when I think about you, everything feels so right. You're special to me in every way. You always seemed to brighten up my days. Remember that I will always love you no matter what. I'll always be by your side. Nothing will keep us apart. I love you so much. Love always Virginia S.. xoxoxoxoxox.

This goes out to Johnny Icebound from Waswanipi. I just thought that I should say what I wanted to say and make this short. I thought that raising the baby by myself would be easy but I was wrong, I do need you, just as much as Darius needs you. I love you so much. Can we give it another try. Let's be together like a family should be. With love, Grace Blacksmith and D. J. Blacksmith (Darius Joey Blacksmith).

Hello to a friend I lost contact with. Her name is Ruth Angatookaluk. How his life with you and your kids? I hope everything's going great with your marriage in the hope you give me a call or at least drop a note. From your long lost friend, Sabrina in Waskaganish. Here's my address, just in case. P O box 28, Waskaganish, Quebec, J0M1R0 (895-2621)

I would like to say hi to my friend from Waswanipi. Sarah E.I. Bonjour my friend. How was Waswanipi? Wishing to see you again. I'm really starting to miss you. Love, friend Pamela.

I would like to say hi to my friend from Waswanipi. Sarah E.I. Bonjour my friend. How was Waswanipi? Wishing to see you again. I'm really starting to miss you. Love, friend Pamela.

Hi to my friend in Waswanipi, Grace Blacksmith. Hope you're doing fine. Me always fine. I just wanted to say hi and hope I'll see you soon. Take care of yourself and your son Darius. Write me a letter. Here is my address. Veronica Longchap, 22 Bedabin Street, Mistissini, Quebec, G0W 1C0. Bye! From friend always, Veronica L. Mistissini.

I would like to say a big hello to my cousins Corrine and Justine Shanush (Gogog) Maryline, Lisa and Louisa Wesley in Eastmain. All I wanted to say is a care of each other and love one another. I can wait to see you when we visit Eastmain in a few weeks. Thinking of you with love, Emily Wesley Bosum. Ojay.

Hi to Janie Shecapio in Mistissini. Hope Everything goes well for you and Philip. I miss the fun, guys. See you. From someone in Waskaganish (guess who)

This goes out to my cousin in Waswanipi Patricia Trapper. Hi! there. How is it going. I miss you already. Expect your letter soon! And take-care of yourself. Hope to see you soon! From your cousin in Mistissini, Cindy Longchap.

Hi to Gloria Happyjack in Waswanipi. I just wanted to say hi. I hope to see you sometime in November. I have a great time with you in Waswanipi Post. I hope to see you soon. Take care of yourself. From friend (you know me)

600-LOVERS AND SECRET ADMIRERS

To the man of my dreams, Wesley Mianscum. I wish you could be here with me forever and I wish you could be mine forever. I hope you'll be mine someday. I'm telling you now I have fantasies about you. I hope I'll see you soon. From somebody who cares about you and loves you. From your secret admirer. xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

I would like to say a little something to my boyfriend Richard Ottereyes. I love you and I care a lot for you. Hope you feel the same way for me. Love always Emma. XXX.

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